THE CRUSADER
Volume 2, Issue 3, July 1999

https://www.foreverknight.ca/KtK/KtK2002/crusader.html
Text Only Part 1 Text Only Part 2

OUR SUMMER ISSUE IS HERE!

Hi everyone, and welcome to the latest edition of The Crusader! We the Crew appreciate the continued support of our faithful longtime readers, and send a huge "welcome aboard" to our first time readers! With each issue, we try to make it better and better. We enjoy making you the readers an inter-active part of each issue. To this end, we ask that if you have any ideas on new features we might add, or have short "Forever Knight" fiction, poetry, artwork, or cartoons, let us know!!! We love featuring the work of all you talented folk!!! Please contact: Susan Ellen Field, Savannah at Coral Springs, 711 Riverside Drive, #1411, Coral Springs, FL 33071, or via e-mail, SField8067@aol.com. Okay, that's enough talk! Go ahead and enjoy The Crusader!!!!!
HUGS! Susan

KICKSTART THE KNIGHT EFFORTS FUND MORE ADS!

The ad you see here is the most recent result of the hard work and determination of all the "Forever Knight" fans who have been supporting Kickstart the Knight. This ad was run simultaneously in "Weekly Variety" (May 28, 1999 edition) and "The Hollywood Reporter" (June 1, 1999 edition). The "Variety" ad was 5 7/8" x 5 3/4", and the "Hollywood Reporter" ad was a half page and a whopping 8 1/2" x 5 1/2"! "Variety" and "Hollywood Reporter" are important trade magazines for the entertainment industry, and these ads were targeted at "The Powers That Be" to let them know that fans of "Forever Knight" are willing to spend money to support their show. To "TPTB" this translates into advertising dollars for them, which makes "Forever Knight" movies and merchandise a viable option. Funds for these ads were raised by KtK through an internet auction of FK related items donated by fans.

"FOREVER KNIGHT" FANS JOIN FORCES WITH FANS OF "THE SENTINEL"!

"Two men--one mortal, one immortal--both with powers to stop crime... in back to back made-for-television movies with the original casts! Wouldn't it be fantastic?" And with that idea, a great partnership has been formed! Kickstart the Knight is joining forces with the Save Our Sentinel campaign for a joint ad in "The Hollywood Reporter" targeted at "TPTB". In addition, we will be doing an internet "banner exchange"–we will display SoS' banner on our web page and they will display KtK's banner on theirs. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first time two fandoms have come together in support of each other to coordinate an ad campaign. The ad, which is in the process of being designed, will be run in

"Hollywood Reporter" in September. The current plan is for a half page ad, but it could be as large as a full page depending upon the amount of funds raised by the joint effort. If we receive a positive response, this partnership may blossom into more ads in the future! Here is everyone's opportunity to help support the effort to bring back "Forever Knight"! If you would like to help fund the joint KtK/SoS "Hollywood Reporter" ad, please send a check or money order in any amount you can afford payable to "HOLLYWOOD REPORTER" (not to KtK). Checks should be mailed to: Kickstart the Knight, c/o Susan Ellen Field, Savannah at Coral Springs, 711 Riverside Drive, #1411, Coral Springs, FL 33071. These checks will be held and not sent to the magazine until September, so please date your checks for the end of August or beginning of September so we can avoid having problems with "stale dated" checks. (We have had checks returned in the past for that reason which then had to be reissued.) THANK YOU for helping to Kickstart the Knight!

WRITE FOR THE KNIGHT!
Let's redouble our efforts and really let "the powers that be" know that we want more Forever Knight! The main idea is to be honest. Tell them your age, where you live, how long you've been watching Forever Knight and how much you'd like to see it back on TV. Do not, however, put anything on the envelope that might indicate you are a FK fan or are writing about the show. These letters are often considered "fannish" and you run the risk of being ignored.
Be business-like...explain why you're writing and why you think it will be profitable to have the show back in production. Tell them what kind of Forever Knight merchandise you have bought, and what you would like to buy. BUT TELL THEM YOU WANT MORE FOREVER KNIGHT! And don't forget to let Rae know how many letters you've written to each address, and which (if any) faction you would like to credit your letters to - let's see which affiliation is the most dedicated!!!! E-mail Rae at Javiette@aol.com. Here is the complete list of addresses:

For FK on video:

Columbia House Video Library
1400 Fruitridge Avenue
Terre Haute, IN 47811

For more FK on Sci Fi:

Edgar Bronfman Jr.
CEO & President
The Seagram Co. Ltd.
375 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10152-0192

Stephen Chao

USA Networks
2049 Century Park E., Ste. 2550
Los Angeles, CA 90067

Bonnie Hammer
Sci Fi Channel
1230 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020

For more FK, FK movies:

Jon Feltheimer
President
Columbia TriStar Television
9336 W. Washington Blvd.
Culver City, CA 90232

Sysan Wycoff
Director of Programming
Sony Television Entertainment
10202 Washington Blvd.
Culver City, CA 90232

For FK movies on Sci Fi:

Adam Shapiro
Corporate Communications 8th Fl.
USA Networks
1230 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020-1513

For more FK merchandise:

Marci Gordon
Sony Product Development
TriStar Building, 3rd Fl.
10102 W. Washington Blvd.
Culver City, CA 90232

800-Trekker
P.O. Box 13131
Reading, PA 19612-3131

For more FK books:

Grace Ressler
Publishing Manager
Sony Signatures
TriStar Building, 3rd Fl.
10202 W. Washington Blvd.
Culver City, CA 90232

Boulevard Books
The Berkley Publishing Group
200 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10016

FK Soundtrack CDs:

Mark Banning
GNP/Crescendo Records
8480-A Sunset Blvd.
West Hollywood, CA 90069

For the FK companion book:

Brenda Scott Royce
Renaissance Media Inc.
5858 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 200
Los Angeles, CA 90036

For the folks in the UK:

Customer Relations Department
Britisy Sky Broadcasting PLC
Subscriber Management Centre
P.O. Box 43
Livingston
West Lothion
EH54 7DD
SCOTLAND

The Sci Fi Channel
77 Charlotte Street
London
W1P 2DD
ENGLAND

NEWS

Geraint Wyn Davies will presenting "An Evening With Dylan Thomas" at the Atlantic Theatre Festival, Wolfville, Nova Scotia. There will be only one performance on August 29, 1999 as part of the ATF's Intimate Evening series. Tickets are $26.50 and $21.00 (Canadian). For more information call 1-800-337-6661 or visit the Geraint Wyn Davies Fan Club's website at http://www.gwdfc.org.

Nigel Bennett will be appearing at Lights, Camera, Auction–Take 2 in Toronto, October 16 and 17, 1999. This is a charity auction to benefit the Los Angeles chapter of Court Appointed Special Advocate and Anishnawbe Street Patrol. Contact the Motion Picture Industry Charitable Alliance, P.O. Box 1284, Springfield, Ohio 45501 or visit http://www.mpica.org/LCA2/main.htm.

Ben Bass (Vachon) is in a new weekly series for Showtime entitled "Beggars and Choosers." The initial episode aired on June 19, 1999 at 10:00 p.m. EST. Ben is also in the Joseph Bonanno movie for Showtime scheduled to air on July 25, 1999 at 8:00 p.m. EST. Check local listings in your area for exact show times.

Greg Kramer (Screed) has had his short stories from "XTRA!" collected in a book going on sale in Canada in the near future. The name of the collection is "Hogtown Bonbons" and it is being published by The Riverbank Press.

Work on Ger's movie about Dylan Thomas, originally set to begin filming this spring, has been postponed until after The Atlantic Theatre Festival performance mentioned above.

Nigel Bennett will be in attendance on the Sci-Fi Sea Cruise aboard Carnival's ship "Imagination" to Grand Cayman and Mexico, December 13-18, 1999. Prices start at $500.00. For more information, call 1-800-683-7447, ext. 77260, or visit http://members.aol.com/sfcruise/index.html.

Greg Kramer is appearing in Brome-Missisquoi County in the Eastern Townships tourist region of Quebec playing the piano for "Always ... Patsy Cline", about the music of Country legend Patsy Cline and her popular hit songs. The story is presented in the form of a country swing musical review. Performances are June 25, 26, 30, July 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 17, 21, 30, and August 4, 7, 12, 14, 1999.

Greg Kramer is also appearing in Brome-Missisquoi County in the play "Loot" by Joe Orton. It is a classic play of British wit, a wild comic adventure between two young thieves, a nurse, a widowed husband, and a corrupt police inspector. Performances are July 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 22, 31 and August 6, 11, 1999. For more information, call the box office at (450)242-2270, or pop over to the webpage at http://www.cclacbrome.qc.ca.

This one's not strictly FK alum related, but we wanted to announce that Crusader staffer Becky Demrow is engaged and will be marrying her boyfriend of over eleven years on July 30, 1999! Congratulations to the happy couple!

KICKSTART THE KNIGHT TEAR-OFF LETTER TO USA NETWORKS

Below is a quick and simple way for everyone to help "Kickstart the Knight"–a form letter for each of us to send to USA! This is not meant to replace the personal letters which all of us need to keep writing, but is a way for us to do something even if we

are too busy to write our own letters. So please, each and every one of you, fill in your name and address on the form below (this is important–they have to know we are real people), cut it off of this page, and mail the form in an envelope addressed to: Stephen Chao, USA Networks, 2049 Century Park East, Suite 2550, Los Angeles. CA 90067. There are also a few lines for optional additional comments, and lines for optional personal information. Next issue we will include another tear-off letter to another member of "the powers that be".

Dear Mr. Chao:

I am a fan of the series "Forever Knight" and I am writing to ask that you bring "Forever Knight" back with the original cast, either as one or more made-for-television movies or as a regular series. I am a consumer with disposable cash and I would like to spend it to support the advertisers who would purchase commercial time during "Forever Knight" movies or new episodes.

Name:
Address:
City:
State/Province:
Zip/Postal Code:
Sex: Date of Birth:
Occupation:
I have been watching Forever Knight since:

KtK ANNOUNCES ITS FIRST OFFICIAL LETTER WRITING DAY!
An on-line fan of Forever Knight recently came up with a fantastic idea to increase the volume of mail going to "TPTB" asking for more FK! July 10, 1999 has been designated as "Forever Knight Letter-Writing Day". The idea is to land a huge pile of letters all at once onto the desk of Marci Gordon at Sony Product Development. So get out those pens or turn on those computers, and everyone write a letter to Ms. Gordon telling her how much you would appreciate it if they would produce more officially licensed FK merchandise! If you bought the novels and the soundtracks, let her know and thank her...then tell her you want more! Please, everyone, write your letters on July 10, 1999 and mail them to: Ms. Marci Gordon, Sony Product Development, TriStar Building - 3rd Floor, 10102 West Washington Boulevard, Culver City, CA 90232.

ON-LINE PETITION FOR FK ON VHS/DVD
Another industrious on-line fan has also devised a way to let our voices be heard when it comes to FK merchandise. She has created an on-line petition, the results of

which will be sent to Marci Gordon at Sony Product Development, where fans can vote asking for the release of FK episodes as well as blooper reels, behind-the-scenes, etc. on their choice of VHS, DVD, or "just give me anything!" All you on-line FK fans, get out there and vote! The page, created by Calliope, is located at http://lavender.fortunecity.com/casablanca/433/index.html.

DONATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR NEXT KtK AUCTION
Hello fellow "Forever Knight" fans!! Kickstart The Knight is currently accepting donated items to be used in our next KtK Auction which will be held in a few months. Proceeds collected from the sale of these items will go towards paying for ads aimed at "TPTB". Anyone who has spare FK stuff–photographs, photocopied scripts, props, anything you've got-- and also other vampire related items, contact Susan Field, Savannah at Coral Springs, 711 Riverside Drive, Apt. 1411, Coral Springs, Florida 33071 or by e-mail at SField8067@aol.com. Thanks From The KtK Crew!!!!

THE CRUSADER PROFILES ARTIST ANKHNITA STONE, IN HER OWN WORDS
It has been said that a name can greatly influence a person's nature. I believe that is true in my case. My first name is
rather unusual and exotic, my last name is solid, earthy as a rock, no pun intended. So by profession I am a clinical scientist, and by intent, I am an artist. I guess you could say I am bi-lobed, that is, both sides of my brain are expressed. Part of me is grounded firmly in things practical, the other part of me floats in a universe of possibility.

A friend once said I am a Rennaissance woman: my interests include world travel (Europe, Africa, Asia, the Americas), ancient history and civilizations, medicine and physics, and all the arts. My deepest love and fascination is with Egypt.

My formal education includes several degrees and certifications in the sciences. I have never taken any art classes. My art is the result of practice, a little talent, and keen observation of the great masters of the past. My favorite medium is pencil or pen. My current favorite subject: Geraint Wyn Davies (unusual name!). I enjoy sketching Ger because he is actually difficult to draw. His features: eyes, nose, mouth, and even anatomy, are all highly distinct, for this reason capturing accurately his features (all of them) is not easy. I do love a challenge.

I hope you will enjoy the work of Ankh.....

THE CRUSADER PROFILES FK FANFIC AUTHOR MOLLY SCHNEIDER
Montage: Of Night and the City; By Molly Schneider
Copyright 1999

One of those nights... One of those nights when the indigo vault of night becomes a reflecting pool of our souls, when the elusive wind breathes promises of heaven in our ears. One of those nights.

Picture of a man, wearing jeans and a sweatshirt as if they were the robes of nobility, standing on a warehouse roof, eyes closed and face raised into the cool breeze. In his hands he holds a paint-streaked rag; a soft smile plays about his mobile lips. Muscles too often tensed relax in contentment. Tonight, perhaps, he is not thinking of all that he has lost, but of all that he has gained; not of what he lacks, but of what he has.

Tenderness lights the heart-shaped face of a woman leaning in the open doorway of a government building as she pauses in her work for a breath of the fresh night air. Inside, behind her, is the message that life is often brutally short; the skies above her hold the reassurance of life's unfailing richness. The stars are hidden by the city's light--but her eyes can see them anyway. Picture of a woman, in shades of blue and gold.

"My spine is the baseline," croons the singer over the relentless backbeat that proves his point, the thudding rhythms of the body externalized by the music and re-absorbed by the dancers. A primal worship, this communal celebration of life by the body in dance. The priestess of this temple watches from the shadows, a feral warmth lighting her eyes. Ancient shamans once dressed in animal skins--picture this, then: the divine cloaked in the beast. Something catches her attention; she hurries down the hall to the man pulling on his coat by the back door. She is small and dark, he is tall and pale, but there is something in the way they turn towards each other as they speak... Picture a family, born not of seed, but of blood.

The man steps out into the alley alone, back straight as a soldier's. Earlier his voice had crackled, disembodied, from a thousand radio speakers across the city; now, he will walk its streets like a wraith. At a corner he stops to watch the passersby, his eyes curiously intent. A wave of contentment washes over him on the passing wind; he turns his cool face to the heavens with a curiously tender smile.

On the roof, the painter's eyes open. He gazes at the city before him with a deep and abiding love before at last he turns to go inside.

On a night like this, picture Time, and that which lasts forever.

FIN

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A self-described bohemian and occasional swap meet dealer, Molly Schneider lives in Phoenix with her mother and six cats. "Forever Knight uses the viewpoint of an outsider--Nick Knight, vampire--to explore the question of what it means to be human, and that's a richly rewarding basis for fan fiction." Molly also hosts the FKWriters list at onelist.com, a discussion forum for aspiring and accomplished writers.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH Since summer is upon us, thoughts stray to vacations, so this month's question

is "What vacation plans would any of the ‘Forever Knight' characters, vampire or mortal, make?
#1: Like the Question! Hmm.... Schanke - somewhere sports-related, or maybe the residence of the world's biggest doughnut. Natalie - workaholic that she is, probably some sort of medical convention. Or, she once said she's always wanted to go to Ireland. Vachon - anywhere where he can kick back and relax. Screed - Las Vegas, of course. Nick - Hard one-where hasn't he been? Maybe he'd visit his old home in Belgium. LaCroix - probably would just follow Nick.
Morgaine, morgaine@worldnet.att.net

#2: I think Janette would definitely go back to Paris. She seemed to love it so much. Lacroix would follow Nick wherever he decided to go. Maybe Nick and Nat would go to New Orleans (sorry, hopeless closet N&N packer/New Orleans lover). Vachon and Tracy would hop on Vachon's bike and go down to NYC . Screed... somehow I don't see him vacationing much. Lestat would go to Miami (oh wait...wrong show)...just kidding. I think Urs would go down to LA, bringing a little justice with her.
Cousin Raven, raven@naturesong.com

#3: I only know one definite vacation plan: Janette WILL go to Paris. If she's happy, she will go to celebrate. If she's NOT happy, she will go because for her, Paris is the one place that is always good to her. Her club was a little bit of Paris (I don't recall her exact quote), so she would most definitely go to the real thing if she takes a vacation.
James

#4: The vamps would go caving, or to the north in the winter months (24 hours of dark, pretty nice for them). Tracy: going to Disney world, big Metro cities. Nat: hitting mega museums on a road trip..throw in a little camping.
Schanke: a Carribean Cruise, or Hawaii. Reese: Vegas. Stonetree: Cabin by a secluded lake. Cohen: Not a clue (klew).
Adriana, adrimcm@home.com

#5: I'm in the middle of a fanfic where the FK characters take a little vacation to Sunnydale, California. Nick and Angel (Ed.: From the series "Buffy the Vampire Slayer") get to have an angst-fest. Then you have the two human females in love with vampires.....
Jennifer, aka Drusilla, Ldyofsable@aol.com

FOCUS ON FACTIONS

One of the newer factions to appear within our FK family is the Texas Knight Dreamers. Founded in 1997, this is a list that supports fans living within Texas, in one of the surrounding states, fans who used to live inTexas, or ever dreamed of

living in Texas. The loop keeps up with happenings that would interest this select group, have some very spirited discussions on-list, and hold get togethers now and then. If you're interested, contact listmom Linda Sriro at kingray@thrify.net. For more information, the Texas Knight Dreamers' web site is located at http://members.aol.com/jewelnotes/fk.htm

If you're interested in having your faction highlighted in an issue of The Crusader, contact April at knightwave@aol.com. I'll need any information on activities, restriction concerning your lists/loops, interesting factors or gatherings you might like to mention and any web sites connected to your group. We'd like to hear from you.

HARBOURING THOUGHTS
Fanfic by S. Clark

Notes: This is a crossover of FK/Black Harbour. It contains references to third season "Black Harbour" (a recent Canadian series starring Geraint Wyn Davies) that could spoil one of the major story arcs. So, if you haven't seen third season and don't want spoilers, I'd suggest you read this story after you've seen the series. Besides, it'd make more sense that way. In the FK universe, it starts in the "Avenging Angel" tag.

The actress that played Jesse in 3rd season BH was in a 3rd season FK as a teen who murdered her mother and blamed it on her father. In the tag of the FK episode, she's confessing her crime while Nick (Knight) looks on. I thought I'd extend that story a bit...in my own way.

Nick entered the observation room. Natalie was already present. The two of them watched the young woman as she told her tale to Reese and Vetter.
Natalie glanced at Nick. His look of concern seemed to match her own.
Nick took a seat on the table. As Julie's words filled the room, painting a picture of her deeds, he turned towards the cinderblock wall, his back to the glass. He felt Natalie's hand on his shoulder and turned towards her.
"What are you thinking, Nick?"
Nick looked up at Natalie, and then shifted around. His gaze again settled in on the young woman seated in interrogation.
"Nick?" Natalie snapped her fingers in front of Nick's face. "Nick, are you with us?"
"It's nothing," he said. But even as he was speaking the words he continued to stare, entranced.
Natalie took a seat next to Nick and nudged him gently with her shoulder. "C'mon, share."
Nick shook his head, breaking out of the stare. He gave Nat a smile. "It's just that young woman in there."

"It's a shame, isn't it? So much has happened to her, and there's so much she's done." Natalie looked at Julie.
"It's not that. Not the murder, I mean."
Natalie looked at Nick. He was back to staring, fixated on the young woman. Her eyes narrowed. "Nick, what are you thinking?"
"I think if I were a forty year old man..." he began.
"Which you aren't," muttered Natalie.
"...this is the kind of woman I'd find appealing." Nick looked at Natalie, his eyes revealed a glimmer of hope.
"Woman, Nick? She's a girl."
Nick smiled. "She's perfect. She's wonderful. I think if I was in the middle of a mid-life crisis..." His voice trailed off.
Natalie rolled her eyes. "Nick. Let's get back to reality."
Nick's expression brightened. "I'm not sure what sentence they'll give her. Maybe only a few years, light supervision."
"Nick?"
"And if it's more than a few years, I could break her out. It'd be easy. I could change her name, just a little. Maybe Jessie, that's close to Julie; they both start with a 'J.'"
"Nick."
"We could move somewhere, together. Maybe the Maritimes. Perhaps she'd like Marine Biology. If so, near the ocean would be an ideal location."
"You are joking, right, Nick?" Whatever dreamtrain Nick was taking, Natalie's tone made it clear she wasn't riding.
Nick gave a slight shrug. "You're right, you're right. I shouldn't be thinking these things."
Natalie gave him a smile and placed a comforting hand on his shoulder. They'd all been under a lot of stress with this case.
"It'd probably end badly, anyway. She'd want to move on, maybe continue her education. Maybe to her it'd only have been about the sex." He smiled. "But it would have been great sex."
Natalie took her hand off Nick's shoulder and cuffed him upside the head.
He didn't react, he just kept talking. "It'd not only end ugly, but I'd pout and whine, yelling at anyone who came near. I might even want to do some stupid trick to prove my manhood. Like the old man, I'd be out fighting a giant fish. A struggle for survival, just me and the tuna."
"I'm leaving, Nick." Natalie hopped off the table and headed for the door.
Nick continued to stare at the young woman.
"Then again, I've had relationships end before. Maybe I'd even learn something from it."
His attention was so fixed upon Julie, he didn't even hear Natalie's scream of frustration. A blood curdling scream that took her all the way from the bullpen to the exit.

Back in the observation room, Nick was still musing over his dreams. "With all of the pain of the breakup, I'd learn something, and eventually become a better person. That'd be good, wouldn't it Nat?"
He glanced at the young woman. She was still the sole focus of his thoughts. "What if," he said to himself. "What if..."

A SPECIAL FEATURE FROM THE CRUSADER
The following is an article originally printed in the January 26-February 1, 1995 issue of Drama-Logue, a major casting newspaper published in Hollywood. The Crusader would like to thank the author, Abbie Bernstein, for giving us permission to reproduce this article as a special treat for our readers!

"Forever Knight" Leading Man Nigel Bennett
Goes for the Jugular in Role as TV Vampire
on Long-Running Syndicated Show That Won't Die
By Abbie Bernstein
It's not that Nigel Bennett is an especially unlikely cult hero, it's just that the circumstances of the British-born actor's current icon status are rather remarkable. As anyone can attest who is familiar with Forever Knight, it's a toss-up as to what's most unusual: the premise of the one-hour series, the nature of the role Bennett plays or its tangled production history: the show started out as a two-hour prime-time CBS TV movie set in L.A., was recast and reset in Toronto in 1992 as part of CBS's "Crime Time After Prime Time" lineup, then was dropped by the network after a season in favor of David Letterman, only to be revived a year-and-a-half later in late-night syndication (in Los Angeles, Sundays at midnight on KTLA). What can't be disputed is Forever Knight's popularity--when Bennett and Geraint Wyn Davies, who plays eponymous lead Nick Knight, appeared at a comic book convention at L.A.'s Shrine Auditorium a few weeks ago, 1600 fans showed up.

"1,651," Bennett grins, but he's not exaggerating. "Pouring down rain afternoon, they remained. The people who are involved are intelligent, they work in universities, in libraries--they just like what's going on [with Knight]. And it's not only here. I did five conventions last year and I've got another one in February and another one in August. I'm from a little tiny village [Essington] in the middle of an industrial backwater in England. I used to dream about this sort of thing, about [people] wanting to meet you. And it's come true. This is just incredible."

For the uninitiated, Forever Knight is the syndicated police drama that proudly admits it's set in Toronto rather than pretending to be a nameless U.S. city. To connoisseurs of late-night Canadian-made fare, this is distinction enough, but that's just the tip of the incisor. Hero Nick Knight is a Toronto police detective--who happens to be an 800-year-old vampire who has repented of his blood-drinking

ways and is trying to regain his mortality. Bennett portrays LaCroix (pronounced La-Kwah), a much older vampire who gave Nick immortal bloodlust all those centuries ago and still revels in the kill. Week after week, LaCroix appears, cheerfully murderous, unrepentant and unpunished, the sort of individual that conventional network Standards and Practices would dispatch in a single episode in the name of making sure evil was not rewarded.

In fact, LaCroix did get a stake through the heart in the very first episode and was slated to appear thereafter only in plentiful flashback sequences illustrating Nick's earlier, less scrupulous existence when he traveled as part of a trio with LaCroix and female vampire Janette (Knight regular Deborah Duchene). But then, in the first season finale, LaCroix returned to present-day Toronto, unalive and well and ready to bedevil Nick all over again, sometimes in person and sometimes over the airwaves as a radio call-in show host who goes by the nomme de deejay Night Crawler. "I think it was the fan response that prompted them to bring me back fully," Bennett explains. "I remember having this long discussion with [co-producer/story editor] Naomi Jantzen and she said, 'No, you can't bring LaCroix back to life--what will you do with him?' And that's the problem: what do you do with this guy who's more powerful than anyone else? Why should he sit around and take a back seat? Because he wouldn't. Nick Knight being the most powerful good guy in the world and LaCroix's being the most powerful bad guy in the world, and you end up with Superman and Lex Luthor. I think [producers James Parriott and Jon Slan] chose not to resolve it in the second year. [LaCroix is] less aggressive with Nick than he was in the first year. They don't fight, which is kind of good, because Nick would lose in the end, and that's the end of the series. [LaCroix] has become more of a mentor, an advisor. He's using that as the approach now with Nick to try to persuade him nicely that vampirism is the best way, rather than beating him over the head with a brick."

Bennett has some personal experience as a mentor, albeit not to bloodsuckers. "I ended up teaching for a year-and-a-half after I left university, but [acting] was all I wanted to do from age 11. I was teaching theatre and there was a new company being established called the Breconshire Theatre Company, which was a group of actor/teachers. It was a very clever set-up; you spent half the year at the school holidays performing in theatres around the community and during the semesters, you would do drama sessions with the kids in school. So it was almost like a halfway house between teaching and acting. And that got me my Equity card and started me on the way."

Having both studied and taught acting, does Bennett believe training is necessary? "I think a lot of people go to drama school thinking they're going to learn how to act. I think that's a misconception. I don't think you can learn how to act. You can either act or you can't act, it's as simple as that. What you can learn is technique, and you can learn how to polish and improve your basic skill. It's like learning how to paint.

You either have an ability and a talent that can be developed or you don't. So in a way, it's not necessary to go to an acting school, although I think it's advisable. There are a lot of very good actors around who never went [but] you do get that wonderful opportunity in a drama school to do things that you probably won't be asked to do professionally for years.

"In England, there's the repertory theatre system, which is great–I mean, when I was there, I was playing roles that were in all honesty far beyond me. But at least I was able to have a go at them, I was allowed to take the chance and meet the risk. If you lose, you lose, but at least you lost trying, rather than just saying, ‘No, I can't do that.' You take a risk every time you go on stage or in front of a camera. You have to learn how to take risks and learn from them, and learn from your mistakes and screw-ups. Am I making sense? Wherever you can, whenever you can, whatever you can, just do it and do it and do it. Because the more you do, the more polished you'll get, the better you'll get, the more you'll enjoy it. And it's play. That's why they're called ‘plays'–because you're playing. [Professional actors] are just very good players. But it should be fun."

Eight years ago, Bennett's then-wife wanted to return to her native Canada; he accompanied her. Fortunately, while still in England, Bennett had met top Canadian agent Larry Goldhar, who offered to represent the actor should he ever come to the Great White North. Goldhar was as good as his word, but Bennett found his career going through a transformation: "I've been acting for 22 years. In England, 99 percent of the work that I did was stage. I worked in the West End, I worked in most of the major repertory theatres around the country, and that was the way I made my living over there. Then when I got to Canada, it totally reversed. I've been on stage in Canada in three shows in eight years. Most of the work I do is American television made in Canada. I prefer television now. Camera work–people who say it's easy really are mistaken–but it demands a different level of concentration [than stage] and a different type of concentration and I find it immensely satisfying."

Bennett's feature credits include Narrow Margin, an all-but-deleted subplot in Legends of the Fall and co-starring turns in the upcoming Paint Cans and Back in Action. TV appearances seem to encompass almost everything shot in eastern Canada since 1987. "People walk up to me on the set sometimes, stunt coordinators and cameramen, and say, ‘Nigel, is there anything you're not in?' And I say," he parodies a smug grin, sending himself up, "‘No.' I'm very lucky. I just hope I don't burn out–I don't want people to say, ‘Oh, no, we've seen enough of him.'"

Although Bennett previously had a recurring stint in The Outside Chance of Maximilian Glick as the young hero's piano teacher and now appears occasionally on Avonlea as a banker, Forever Knight is his first series as a weekly regular. "The nice thing about being a regular is you don't have to make an impression. I've done a lot of small parts and the worst in the world is the one-day role. It's a nightmare.

The one-scene role is the worst nightmare. You sit there and you think, ‘I'm working on a big movie with a big director. I've really got to impress.' And you go right over the top just doing too much and it's very difficult to resist that temptation. James B. Sikking said to me on Narrow Margin–there was a train and there were lots of extras and there was all this stuff," he mimes overblown farewell gestures, "and James said, ‘When will people understand that you don't have to do anything? You don't have to attract the camera's attention, it's already looking at you.' And it's very difficult to learn that. So being a regular is very liberating. We all have days when we're not very good, but when you're a regular, you don't have to worry, ‘Will this director ever use me again?'"

Despite what may strike some Forever Knight viewers as parallels between LaCroix and another popular vampire with a similar-sounding name who also wants to lure his undead protege back, Bennett didn't read the novel Interview With the Vampire until the hiatus between Knight's first and second season. Moreover, although he plans to watch it, so far Bennett still hasn't seen the cinematic incarnation of Lestat, "so whatever I did, it has nothing to do with Anne Rice."

Was there anything specific Bennett asked the producers to let him do as LaCroix? "I don't sit there and consciously think, ‘What can I do to make him sympathetic this week?' The only thing we said earlier this year was that there had to be an episode where it explained how LaCroix ‘came across' [became a vampire]. I'd like an episode where I get Nick back. Some time before the end he'd recant, but maybe two or three episodes where Nick is once again a real vampire, where he's back, mine, all mine." He laughs, empathizing with LaCroix's possessiveness. "It would be good for Ger as well, his character, to show how dark his character can be. But apart from that, most of the things I've wanted have been done. I have a lot of say in how LaCroix speaks, in what he actually says. What writers tend to do, because he's quite European, this character, in the way he speaks and his attitudes–he's a little arch, a little highbrow. And what happens is the writers start to write him that way. Then you've got me performing highbrow [dialogue] highbrow. It goes way over the top. So a lot of the time, I walk onto the set and walk up to the script girl and say, ‘Okay, there are the changes,' and I'll just cross lines out and change words, and [the producers] are perfectly happy.

"It's a real tightrope we walk in terms of going over the top–it's really close to being over the top the way we do it, especially in the flashbacks. I think the series is very fortunate to have Ger and me and Deborah, who are the main flashback people, who have done a lot of stage and who know how far to go. You have to develop that sixth sense," he imitates a warning siren, "‘I can't do that, I can't do that, that's over the top.'

"If there's one reason that LaCroix becomes very believable and people can identify with him and he's become popular, it's because I treat him very seriously. He has a

reason for everything he does very clearly worked out in his own mind. And I have to work that out, I have to know why he's doing it. He's not just being difficult, he's not just being bloody-minded. You have to approach [playing a vampire] with honesty. I worked on Narrow Margin with Gene Hackman and what struck me about him more than anything was the honesty he brought to it. You could never tell when he started [acting]. We'd be chatting away, and the director would call ‘Action!' and we'd still be chatting, and I'd suddenly think, ‘That's dialogue!' [Hackman] didn't stop talking and go," Bennett makes a face, "and start acting, it was just a complete flow from real life into the character. He could be doing a role in a crappy film, but I've never seen him give a performance that isn't great."

In Forever Knight, flowing from life into performance can be a special challenge when the character registers anger and/or hunger with glowing eyes and lengthened canines. "The teeth are difficult in just making the dialogue clear, but you can always ADR it afterwards in the studio. And the eyes are okay. You don't wear them very much, you only wear them for like five, 10 minutes at a time. They have new lenses this year which are double thickness, hard contact lenses. You can't see a thing, you have to be led to your mark." Fortunately, when the glowing eyes are in, "most of the time, the only grabbing that they do is to bite [someone] in the neck, which is relatively easy." He laughs. "You just hope they're in the right place when you lunge. With the new lenses, there was one shot where I jumped. And I landed and it popped out, and there I am with one yellow eye and one blue eye."

Will there be another season of Forever Knight after the currently airing one? "Nothing's been set yet because since it's in syndication, it has to be resold every year, it's not like the network just picks it up. But it looks pretty definite–the response we've had has been amazing. Late night, anything [in ratings] over 3.5 is considered a miracle. We've been doing 4.0 which is incredible. So let's hope."

However long Forever Knight lasts, Bennett will continue to act. "I can't imagine doing anything else. I can imagine directing or something like that, but I can't imagine not working in this business. It's given me all the things that I thought it would give me and a lot more. I have no complaints–when we're standing in the middle of the night exhausted and it's pouring with rain and someone's yelling, ‘Don't light the rain!' even then, I feel privileged. It's a piece of cake compared to most work that people do. And I still get the same buzz. I get nervous every time I go in front of a camera, clammy, shaking hands and everything, and it's great."

FACTION FUNDRAISER

The Unnamed Faction is proud to announce its first charity zine, The Pillow Book of the Unnamed Faction. Professionally and thoughtfully designed, the book features stories, poems and vignettes from some of FK fandom's most accomplished writers, including Leslie Grant Smith, Molly Schneider, Kathy Whelton, elfin, Fenris, April

Hackett and Susan Fields, and many more. In addition, the Pillow Book is a limited, numbered edition (perfect for autographing!). For your very own copy of the UF Pillow Book, please send payment (check or money order in U.S. funds) made out to: Lauren Hawes, 3075 North Mountain View Avenue, San Bernardino, CA 92405, USA. The cost is $20 per book, plus shipping charges: United States: $3.20; Canada: $4.10; England, France, Germany, Spain: $6.95; Australia, New Zealand: $8.95. Proceeds from the Pillow Book will be divided between Geraint Wyn Davies' preferred charity, which is the Children's Miracle Network, a network of pediatric hospitals (website address http://www.chwo-foundation.org/telethon.htm) and Nigel Bennett's: the White Ribbon Campaign (website address http://www.whiteribbon.ca/index.html), an organization that works to stop violence against women. (Editor's Note: The Pillow Book includes content which is adult in nature, as the Unnamed Faction explores the relationship between LaCroix and Nick in all possible aspects. For that reason, the Pillow Book is intended for those over age 18.)

Our Readers Write...
Following are some recent letters from Crusader subscribers. If you have any questions or comments, or if there is anyone who has written in the past whose questions have not been answered, please send your letters to: Kickstart the Knight, P.O. Box 1914, Racine, WI 53401-1914 or by e-mail to SField8067@aol.com. We will do our best to answer all of your questions!
From Winifred M.:
Have you considered the possibility of an FK audio drama? I mean original script, sound effects, "who knows what evil" et al. It could be done more simply and cheaply than a movie.... Sales of such an audio drama could influence other FK merchandise.
Ed.: This is something that could be mentioned in everyone's letters to Sony Product Development!

From Carl C.:
If you accept donations to keep this newsletter going, please let me know.
Ed.: We cannot accept monetary donations for the newsletter itself. However, you can contribute to our next ad (see the KtK/SoS article) or contribute merchandise for our next auction. We also accept donations of postage stamps to help with mailing costs.From Rose T.:
They really ought to have made a new episode to "correct" that terrible last episode–make it all a bad dream and then they are all alive again–bring back the whole cast in another episode.
Ed.: We couldn't agree more! The more letters we send to "TPTB" asking for a resolution to "Last Knight", the better our chances to Kickstart the Knight!

From Mixie B.:

I have just mailed in your "tear-off letter" to Sony.... I had already written a letter to Ms. Wycoff, but I wrote again.... So, it's OK to write same people again?
Ed.: The more new writers we can get the better, but yes, it is fine to write the same people again. We suggest writing every 2-3 months, and you can mention you are following up on a previous letter if you wish.From Karen B.:
Just a note to let you know that if there's ever a collection of music (by fans) inspired by FK to be recorded, I have a piece to contribute.
Ed.: That is an excellent idea! There are many talented songwriters among FK fans, as is evidenced by the prolific "filks" which people often post to internet mailing lists. If anyone has the means and the equipment to accomplish this, let us know!

Top 10 Ways to Tell You are Addicted to "Forever Knight"
By Libby Singleton
10. You buy LaCroix brand bottled water even though you think it tastes awful.
9. Every time you see a "Forever Knight" professional novel you buy it although you already
have a stack of extras.
8. You have several sets of "Forever Knight" videos and record another each time a season
is repeated in case one set wears out.
7. Instead of merely have low self esteem and a tendency to worry, you angst.
6. You audio record all the Nightcrawler's monologues so you can pretend you're listening
to CERK when you drive at night.
5. You begin a scholarly study of "Alice in Wonderland" so you can more thoroughly dissect "Curiouser and Curiouser."
4. Whenever you visit a pet store and see a white rat, your eyes tear up in memory of
Screed (although you know he's really just napping).
3. Whenever you see a green Caddy, you have an almost unbearable urge to peek into the trunk.
2. Whenever you mail a stack of bills, you also mail another stack of Kickstart the Knight letters.
And the number 1 way to tell you are addicted to "Forever Knight":
1. You refuse to go ahead and get in line for "Star Wars: The Phantom Menance" because
it means you'd miss Forever Knight.

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The Crusader is a completely non-profit publication, designed to keep "Forever Knight" fans aware of the latest opportunities to secure more original FK, whether in a renewed series or 2-hour movies. If you are able to assist by spreading the word through other non-FK fan clubs, newsletters, magazines, conventions, sci fi/ fantasy associations, school or local papers, please write for more information to: Susan Ellen Field, Savannah At Coral Springs, 711 Riverside Drive, Apt.# 1411, Coral Springs, FL 33071. If you can help distribute flyers, write: KtK Newsletter, P.O. Box 1914, Racine, WI 53401-1914 or e-mail BJDFKFan@aol.com. Letters to the editor can be sent to: SField8067@aol.com or to Susan Ellen Field at the address listed above.NOTICE

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Many thanks from the gang at Kickstart the Knight!